

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A printer comprising:
 - a detector configured to detect that a printer cable, which
 - 5 is connected to a computer, is unplugged; and
 - a clearer configured to clear printing data received from the computer and stored in a data buffer when the detector detects that the printer cable has been unplugged.
- 10 2. A printer comprising:
 - a print start detector configured to detect that a print start signal, which indicates a start of a transmission of printing data, is received from a computer;
 - a data buffer configured to temporarily store the printing
 - 15 data received from the computer;
 - a print finish detector configured to detect that a print finish signal, which indicates a finish of the transmission of the printing data, is received from the computer; and
 - a clearer configured to clear the printing data stored in
 - 20 the data buffer when the print start signal is received again from the computer or another computer after the print start detector has detected the print start signal and before the print finish detector detects the print finish signal.
- 25 3. The printer according to claim 2 wherein the printer does not have a cable detector which directly detects that a printer cable connected to the computer is unplugged.
4. The printer according to claim 2 wherein the print start
- 30 signal is a device ID request which the computer transmits for confirming a model of the printer.
5. The printer according to claim 2 wherein the print start signal is a predetermined string which the computer transmits
- 35 before a start of the transmission of the printing data.
6. The printer according to claim 2 wherein the print start

signal is a cable plug/unplug effective command which the computer transmits before a start of the transmission of the printing data, and the print finish signal is a cable plug/unplug ineffective command which the computer transmits after a finish of the printing data.

7. The printer according to claim 6 further comprising a packet receiving detector configured to detect that the printer is receiving any packet, wherein

the clearer clears the printing data stored in the data buffer if the packet receiving detector detects that the printer is receiving the packet even when the print start signal is received.

8. The printer according to claim 7 wherein a plurality of logical channels are established between the computer and the printer, and the cable plug/unplug effective command and the cable plug/unplug ineffective command are transmitted and received by using at least one of the logical channels.

9. A printer comprising:

a cable detector configured to detect whether a printer cable, which is connected to a computer, is plugged normally or not;

a data buffer configured to temporary store printing data received from the computer; and

a clearer configured to clear the printing data stored in the data buffer when the cable detector detects that the printer cable has been unplugged.

10. The printer according to claim 9 wherein the cable detector monitors a voltage of a power bus of the printer cable, judges that the printer cable is unplugged when the voltage is not detected, and judges that the printer cable is plugged when the voltage is detected.

11. The printer according to claim 10 wherein the printer performs a predetermined initialization when the cable detector

detects that the printer cable is plugged after the clearer has cleared the printing data stored in the data buffer.

12. The printer according to claim 10 further comprising:
5 a print start detector configured to detect that a print start signal, which indicates a start of a transmission of the printing data, is received from the computer; and
a print finish detector configured to detect that a print finish signal, which indicates a finish of the transmission of
10 the printing data, is received from the computer, wherein
the clearer clears the printing data stored in the data buffer only when the cable detector detects that the printer cable is unplugged after the print start detector has detected the print start signal, and before the print finish detector detects the
15 print finish signal.
13. The printer according to claim 12 wherein the print start signal is a device ID request which the computer transmits for confirming a model of the printer.
- 20 14. The printer according to claim 12 wherein the print start signal is a predetermined string which the computer transmits before a start of the transmission of the printing data.
- 25 15. The printer according to claim 2 wherein the printer does not have a power switch for a user to turn ON/OFF a power supply and does not have a control panel for the user to operate for clearing the printing data stored in the data buffer.
- 30 16. A printer control method comprising:
a detecting process for detecting that a printer cable, which is connected to a computer, is unplugged; and
a clearing process for clearing printing data received from the computer and stored in a data buffer when it is detected that
35 the printer cable has been unplugged in the detecting process.
17. A recording medium storing a program for controlling a

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printer, the program comprising:

a detecting step for detecting that a printer cable, which is connected to a computer, is unplugged; and

- 5 a clearing step for clearing printing data received from the computer and stored in a data buffer when it is detected that the printer cable has been unplugged in the detecting step.

18. A program for controlling a printer, the program comprising:

- 10 a detecting step for detecting that a printer cable, which is connected to a computer, is unplugged; and

a clearing step for clearing printing data received from the computer and stored in a data buffer when it is detected that the printer cable has been unplugged in the detecting step.

15 19. A program data signal embodied in a carrier wave comprising:

- a detecting step for detecting that a printer cable, which is connected to a computer, is unplugged; and

- 20 a clearing step for clearing printing data received from the computer and stored in a data buffer when it is detected that the printer cable has been unplugged in the detecting step.